

LAURA BARNES.

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JANUARY 28, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. WOOD, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3472.] -

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3472) granting a pension to Laura Barnes, submit the following report:

The proposed beneficiary in this bill is Laura Barnes, the widow of Thomas J. Barnes, who served as a corporal in Company K, Sixth United States Infantry, from April 18, 1865, to November 3, 1866, and who died September 5, 1877, of consumption, claimed to have been contracted while in service on the Western plains. There is some evidence in the record showing death to have occurred from disease contracted in the service, but not sufficient, in the judgment of the committee, to establish the claim. The widow is in poor health and without means for support. Her claim for pension under act of June 27, 1890, was rejected on the ground that the soldier had a previous service in the Confederate army.

The House has already passed H. R. 8271, known as the "Pickler bill," which authorizes the pensioning of this class of claimants. In obedience to the policy thus declared by a large majority of the House, the committee recommend the passage of the bill.